

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*September 13, 2020*

# WELCOME

*It is a joy to have you here at worship with us today. We especially remember those who are not able to be with us this morning and keep them in our prayers.*

*For the safety of all, we ask throughout the worship service that you please wear your face mask. If it becomes troublesome to breathe, please excuse yourself and go to the hallway (if possible) prior to removing your mask. We understand that breathing may be challenging for several of us, feel free to leave if you need to.*

*If you are in need of a mask, please let our ushers know.*

*The Coronavirus spreads easily through singing, so we are not having congregational singing for a while. As you may have anticipated, projecting our voices also extends the distance of the virus spreading, so it is recommended that you use your library voice as you speak responses in our worship service today.*

*Following worship today, please let us know if you have suggestions for future services. We are all learning new ways together.*

*Visitors are invited to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave worship today. Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

*Children are always welcome in church.*

*Large print bulletins for today's worship are available. Feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

*When leaving, please take your bulletin with you so others do not need to touch the same paper.*

*Pastor Nicholson will be available outside following worship to talk with you. You are encouraged to exit the building and talk with persons outdoors as well.*

*If by chance you contract the virus in the next couple of days, please let the church know so we can try to contact those who sat near you.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE & WELCOME

**CALL TO WORSHIP** based on Psalm 103:1-7 (assigned Psalm for the day)

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.  
**Come, let us worship the Lord.**

## Glories of Your Name Are Spoken

*With your mask on, you are invited to hum along as you reflect upon the words.*

- 1       Glories of your name are spoken,  
          Zion, city of our God;  
          he whose word cannot be broken  
          formed you for his own abode.  
          On the Rock of Ages founded,  
          what can shake your sure repose?  
          With salvation's walls surrounded,  
          you may smile at all your foes.
- 2       See, the streams of living waters,  
          springing from eternal love,  
          well supply your sons and daughters,  
          and all fear of want remove.  
          Who can faint, while such a river  
          ever will their thirst assuage?  
          Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
          never fails from age to age.
- 3       Round each habitation hov'ring,  
          see the cloud and fire appear  
          for a glory and a cov'ring,  
          showing that the Lord is near.  
          Thus deriving from their banner  
          light by night and shade by day,  
          safe they feed upon the manna  
          which God gives them on their way.
- 4       Savior, since of Zion's city  
          I through grace a member am,  
          let the world deride or pity,  
          I will glory in your name.  
          Fading are the worldlings' pleasures,  
          all their boasted pomp and show;  
          solid joys and lasting treasures  
          none but Zion's children know.

## GREETING

*Please stand as you are able.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

based on Psalm 103:8-13 (assigned Psalm for the day)

<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

<sup>9</sup>**you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup>**For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup>**As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

*Please stand as you are able.*

The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON** *Silence for reflection.*

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*With your mask on, you are invited to hum along as you reflect upon the words.*

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
if with his love he befriend you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

## OUR RESPONSE

**OFFERING** *Returning our thanks to God with our offering is a regular part of our worship service. To reduce the odds of spreading the coronavirus, we have placed the offering plates at the entrances to our worship service. You are encouraged to present your gifts to God as you leave worship today.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Let us pray: Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us— ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and always. **Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #33504. Hymns reprinted by permission under One License #A-727079 and CCLI #11318988*



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God  
with thankfulness for His many blessings.

Given by: Tim and Mary Gotwald

## Remember in your prayers...

Tom Cover (9/24)	Sandy Curfman	Aloma Dawkins
Ernie Fricke	Karen Hockensmith (9/24)	Nancy Jacobs
Elva Kroeger	Dia Schumacher (9/23)	John Newcomer
Evelyn Scott	John Shearer (10/9)	James Warne
Jim Woods (9/28)	Private Parker Brown	

**September 6 Attendance:** In person: 43  
On line 79 x 2 = 158 (ELCA formula)

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting via Zoom
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee via Zoom
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 a.m.	Ladies Breakfast at Texas Lunch
	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY** First Lutheran is seeking a part-time Director of Faith Formation and Technology with primary responsibilities to develop in person and online ministry opportunities for persons of all ages. The candidate will have a solid Christian faith with appropriate educational background; strong relational abilities with both young people and adults; the skill to work within a team and be a team leader; and the flexibility of scheduling to be available to work days, nights, and weekends. The position is for 20 hours per week on a salary basis of approximately \$20,000 per year. Full job description available at [www.felcc.org](http://www.felcc.org). Resumes need to be received by Monday, September 14.

**SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN CHAMBERSBURG AUXILIARY** You may make a contribution to the programs the auxiliary supports at Luther Ridge for 2020. Please send your donation to Marjorie Dale, Auxiliary President, 235 Woodvale Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201 or Mary Jane Lindsey, Auxiliary Treasurer, 273 Cherry Lane Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17202. Any questions please call Marjorie at 717-860-7544.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** begins on Sunday September 13 from 10:00 to 10:30. We ask that you please wear a mask and keep a 6 ft distance when you attend.

<b>AGE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>TEACHER</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Adults	Study of Psalms	Tim Gotwald	Parlor
Elementary and Younger	Stories of the Bible	Mary Gotwald and Nicki Johnson	Second Floor Classroom
Youth	God and Life	Gerry Wilson	Second Floor

**JESUS: The God Who Knows Your Name** Pastor Nicholson will be leading a Zoom (on-line) Bible Study Group beginning Tuesday, September 27 – November 10 at 6:30. The study is based on Max Lucado’s book, “Jesus: The God Who Knows your Name.” We will watch together a DVD during the hour-long study. Let pastor know of your interest so you have the zoom information to connect to the study. If you lack confidence in zoom, but would like to participate, please speak with Pastor Nicholson and she will work with you. Looking forward to engaging in God’s word in this new way. Join us!

**SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN CHAMBERSBURG AUXILIARY** is sponsoring **Smith’s BBQ Chicken on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:00am. Drive through service will be provided until sold out.** Each dinner includes ½ chicken, baked potato, baked beans, choice of applesauce or macaroni salad, roll and butter. Cost is **\$12.00/dinner.** The event will take place in front of Franklin Hardware & Pet Store, 1975 Philadelphia Ave. Call Marjorie Dale @ 717-860-7544 for additional information.

**BACK PACK PROGRAM** September suggested items are: graham crackers, light popcorn, whole grain cereal, granola bars, and individual cereal boxes.

**THE GIVE AND TAKE BOX** If you are able, please pick up a few items to share. Remember this box supplies personal care items. Needed items include shampoo, deodorant, tissues, toothpaste and brushes, hand soap, body soap, laundry detergent, dish detergent, band aids, toilet paper. Thank you for your care and concern for those who need our support.

### **Worship Assistants September 13**

Lector and Prayers  
Sound Board

Gary Fleegal  
Justin Holoviak

### **Communion Assistants for September 20**

Sanctuary

Tim Gotwald

Chapel

Karen Sloan



West Washington Street  
Chambersburg Pa 17201  
www.felcc.org  
felccoffice@gmail.com  
717-264-2015

Pastor  
Pastoral Assistant  
Director of Church Music  
Parish Administrator  
Treasurer  
Financial Secretary  
Custodian

The Rev. Jane Nicholson  
The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer  
Freda J. Dorand, Deacon  
Cheryl Christman  
Sally Herritt  
Carol McCoy  
Jim Forbes

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**We welcome visitors this morning.**

Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

**Our Mission**

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus, burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

**Worship Schedule**

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
also on facebook at FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurch  
and on our webpage at www.FELCC.org

ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus, and to worship with us.